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ings. At night I concealed as many of my papers as I could, and delivered only those which were written in pencil, with which they were contented. After my notes were given up, the Sultan wished to see my luggage, from which he selected for himself whatever pleased him. The next morning I set out on my return to Macalla, which town I reached on the 8th of September, after a journey of 12 days, and thence took a boat for Aden.

V.—*Note on the Island of Hong-Kong*. By A. R. JOHNSTON. Esq., H.M. Deputy Superintendent of Trade.

[The following account alludes to the beginning of 1843.—Ed.]

THE island of Hong-Kong, seen from a distance at sea, is, like all the islands on this coast of China, precipitous and uninviting. Its high hills often terminate in sharp peaks, and are thickly strewn with masses of black rock, of primitive formation, frequently piled upon one another in a most remarkable and sometimes fantastic manner, with here and there two or three lower hills, covered with gravel and sand. From the summit to the water's edge there are few or no trees; and, except in the months of May, June, July, and August, when these islands look green, they might be supposed to be quite barren.

On landing and examining the island of Hong-Kong, the N. and N.E. side is found to be separated from the S. and S.W. by one continued range of hills, in no place less than 500, in most parts upwards of 1000, and on more than one pinnacle 1744 feet above the level of the sea, by barometrical observation. When to this is added that the utmost breadth of the island does not exceed 4 or 5 miles, it may easily be imagined that the descent to the sea on either side is very abrupt.

The eastern end of the island is divided from the centre by two deep ravines, both running from the same eminence—the one in a S.E. direction, which terminates in Tie-tam Bay, and the other in a northerly direction, and terminating in the small valley of Wang-nie-chong. The western part of the island is likewise divided from the centre by two ravines, both running from the same eminence—the one to the S. terminating in a small undulating piece of country, on which the village of Pok-foo-lum is situated, and the other to the north, where it spreads out and forms Government Hill and the small flat beneath. Small streams run down all these ravines, and they quickly swell into torrents when rain falls; but, what is remarkable, they never fail to furnish water in the driest season of the year. There are

also other smaller rivulets which furnish a good supply of water at all seasons.

A coarse kind of grass is found on all the hills, but on those with a northerly and north-easterly exposure it is generally choked by ferns and stunted brush-wood; while on the face of the hills fronting the S. it grows in clumps unchecked, except when burnt by the natives.

There are no towns on the island, excepting the flourishing one of Victoria, which was founded by the English in 1841, and formally ceded to the British crown under the Nankin treaty. This town is fast springing into importance, and a 50-foot road runs through it for more than 3 miles to the valley of Wang-nie-chong, where it becomes narrower, and, diverging, crosses over the range of hills by the ravines, already described, to Tie-tam Bay, and from thence to Chek-choo, on the S. side of the island.

The village of Chek-choo is the largest and most important one on the island; and a large detachment of European troops are stationed there. The population of this village amounts to 800, of which 500 are men, about 100 women, and the rest children. There are 180 houses and shops at this place, and the average value of a house is 400 dollars. The people are employed in trading, in farming, and in curing fish. There are about 60 mows* of land under cultivation, which the owners value at 40 dollars a mow of rice-ground, and 15 dollars a mow of land for the cultivation of vegetables. The people of the place cure about 150 pekuls† of fish a-month, for which purpose they use, in the same time, from 30 to 40 pekuls of salt, which they buy at one Spanish dollar for 5 pekuls: 350 boats, large and small, traffic with the place, but not more than 30 are owned by the people there; most of their boats are used for fishing in the vicinity, and the fish, when cured, is exchanged at Canton and other nearer places for the necessaries of life.

The houses at Chek-choo are very inferior to those in an ordinary Chinese town on the main land of China, although, on the other hand, some of them are much superior to houses in any of the other villages of Hong-Kong: but the quality of land under cultivation, as well as the quantity, is not equal to that at Heong-Kong, Wang-nie-chong, Soo-kun-poo, and Pok-foo-lum, which are places that may be strictly denominated agricultural villages.

I should estimate the whole land under cultivation on the island at less than 1500 mows; and about two-thirds of that are under rice-cultivation. Allowing, as a liberal price, 45 dollars a

* Sir George Staunton roughly estimates the Chinese mow at 1000 square yards of our measure.

† A pekul is equal to 133½ lbs. of our measure.

mow for the rice-land, and 15 dollars for every other description, the value of the whole land under cultivation may be estimated at 52,500 dollars.*

The other villages on the island, besides Chek-choo, are,—

1st, Heong-Kong, from whence the island derives its name. This village is prettily embowered in trees, and has a good deal of cultivated land about it: its population does not exceed 200.

2nd, Tie-tam is situated at the head of a deep bay, where a good deal of flat land may be reclaimed, and a good boat-harbour formed. A few ships may find protection from the weather in particular parts of the bay of Tie-tam; but, as a whole, this bay is much exposed in both monsoons. The inhabitants of the village do not exceed 50.

3rd and 4th, Wang-nie-chong and Soo-kun-poo. These are both pretty villages, in the midst of fruit-trees, and surrounded by cultivated land. In their vicinity, as at Tie-tam, a considerable extent of land could be reclaimed from the sea, and it shortly will be much required for building purposes. The united population of the two villages amounts to about 350.

5th, Pok-foo-lum is situated about 500 feet above the level of the sea, and commands an extensive view of all the islands to the S. and W. as far as Macao.

There are, besides the villages enumerated, many hamlets on the E. coast of the island, where the magnificent granite of Hong-Kong is principally quarried; and at one of them, called Sai-wan, a detachment of soldiers is stationed.

The place, however, of most prospective importance on the island, with the exception of the town of Victoria, is a village called Shek-peï-wan, which appears to have been once the principal sea-port of the island, and to have been a more flourishing place than it now is. This port, although small, is nearly land-locked; and, having both a western and a southern entrance, it is pretty easy of ingress and egress at all times. An island, of about 2 miles in circumference, called Tap-lee-chow, protects this anchorage on the one side, as the island of Hong-Kong does on the other. There is here abundance of water for a line-of-battle ship to lie at anchor, and its only drawback is in being too small as an anchorage for a large number of European vessels, although 15 or 20 might lie here if necessary. On first visiting this place, in 1841, I was struck with its appearance; and it is probable the time will come when this anchorage will be much in use for repairing vessels, should it not be appropriated by the navy for a dock-yard, for which it certainly seems well-suited. The island of Tap-lee-chow would be a good place for a hospital, work-

* At 4s. 6d. a dollar, 52,500 dollars would equal 11,812*l.* 10s.

shops, patent slips, &c. ; but, in the event of the navy taking it, it would of course require to be fortified.

No public buildings were found on any part of the island of Hong-Kong when it was first occupied by the English, except a small tumble-down Chinese house at Chek-choo, and another at Shek-pie-wan, where the petty mandarins stopped occasionally, and three Chinese temples, one at Chek-choo, one near Soo-kun-poo, and the third and finest at Shek-pie-wan, situated on a little island, not exceeding an acre in extent, and covered with trees. The existence of this last temple, with the ruins of many houses in the same vicinity, gives rise to the impression that Shek-pie-wan has seen better days ; and it is known to have been one of the principal resorts of the pirates when they infested this coast of China many years ago ; and that it would again lately have been so, had the island of Hong-Kong not been occupied by the English, is more than probable.

According to the Admiralty Chart, Point Albert, Victoria Bay, on the N. coast of the island, is in $22^{\circ} 16' 27''$ N. lat. and $114^{\circ} 40' 48''$ E. long.

The climate is not essentially different from that of Macao ; although, of course, particular sheltered localities are more hot, while on the other hand those that are exposed to the monsoons are cooler. Indeed the description of the climate of Macao by the late Dr. Pearson, who was for many years the medical attendant on the Company's establishment there, applies with equal propriety to that of Hong-Kong. The most prevalent diseases are intermittent and remittent fevers, and dysentery : intermittent fever is very common about the equinoxes and in the cold weather ; remittent fevers prevail during the hot season, especially ; dysentery is common during the whole year, but particularly after sudden changes of weather. The natives appear to suffer from these complaints as well as Europeans, but they have no remedies of their own except counter-irritation, produced by pinching and rubbing with the fingers and with copper cash, in fevers. Vaccination has been introduced by Europeans since the occupation of the island.

The only animals found on the island are a few small deer, a sort of armadillo, and a land-tortoise. There are several sorts of snakes, but no one has yet been found to suffer from their bite.

Among the fruits and vegetables produced on the island are the mango, lichee, longan, orange, pear, rice, sweet potatoes, and yams ; a small quantity of flax is grown, and prepared for household uses by the villagers. Since the occupation of the island by the English, the potato of Europe, and the fruits of Canton and Macao, have been introduced ; and lately a great many European

seeds have been brought out by the agent of the Horticultural Society of London, and distributed.

Specimens of the zoology and botany of Hong-Kong are being gradually sent home, and a list of these productions will be furnished before long.

The rock of Hong-Kong and of the surrounding islands is granite, in all its stages—that having the quartz, mica, and felspar well mixed, and suited for the best sorts of building purposes, with that wherein these three ingredients vary in proportion, and are not so closely mixed, and consequently only adapted for foundations, dykes, and the other rougher sorts of masonry. Besides granite suitable for building, varieties of this rock are found in places where dykes of quartz intersect it in various directions, and where the quartz preponderates over the other two ingredients. It is also found in the state that the French call “*maladie du granite*.”* The principal soil of the island is decomposed granite, and hills of 200, 300, and even 400 feet high are found entirely composed of it. The felspar, and in some instance the mica, seem to have been affected by some gas which converts it into a sort of clay or pulp, which is either infiltrated along with the rain through the soil thus composed and lodged beneath its surface, or is washed away, leaving the quartz scattered about in grains and fragments, almost in the shape of coarse sand. Where part of the clay or pulp is found still mixed with the soil described, it binds it together well, and makes excellent roads; but where there is a large proportion of clay to the other soils, it cracks in dry weather, and forms into little hard lumps, which is very trying to the horses' feet, and does not answer well for roads.

In some places close to the sea I have found veins of trap, of a dark slate-colour, varying from 6 inches to 1½ foot in thickness. On the S. and W. sides of the island the rock differs from the generality of that on the opposite side, and assumes the appearance of thick flag-stone, breaking into large crystallized pieces, which it likewise does on the pinnacle of the highest hills, and from time to time falls down and spreads over the foot of the hill. These large stones are very numerous in particular localities, but, owing to their excessive hardness, the Chinese have not yet got into the way of cutting them for use. Occasionally, something like sandstone is found in small pieces, but not of sufficient size to be used for building.

The decomposed granite of which I have spoken is not unfre-

* The state here alluded to is that in which there is a want of coherence of the materials forming the rock, without any visible signs of decomposition. The rock looks fresh, but the slightest blow is sufficient to reduce it to the state of sand, in which all the ingredients are distinct.—ED.

quently found covered with vegetable mould from 6 inches to 2 feet deep, of a pretty good quality, particularly in the deep ravines, where the ferns and grass have grown, died, and rotted, through distant periods of time. With this exception, there is no other soil, except what has been artificially made, as at those places where rice and other vegetables are cultivated.

The agriculturists of Hong-Kong use the common Chinese wooden plough, drawn by bullocks or buffaloes; and their other agricultural implements are like those used on the main land. Their threshing-floor is made on the first convenient spot outside their farm-house; the ground being smoothed, is afterwards covered with lime, and beaten flat. The grain is sometimes trodden out by cattle, and at others threshed with a flail, quite like our own, except that one piece revolves on a pin with a head, which is fastened into the side of the other. Some of the labouring women wear a hat like the usual Chinese one, but it has a blue nankin curtain, of 5 or 6 inches deep, sewn round the edge of the rim, to keep off the glare from the face.

A small winnowing machine, turned by the hand, on the same principle as our own, is used for clearing the grain of its husk after it has been threshed.

VI.—*On Chinese and European Maps of China.* Addressed by
Mr. WILLIAM HUTTMANN to the Council of the Royal Geographical Society.

MY attention having been called to a paragraph in your President's last anniversary address, on the desirableness of a new map of China, and your Secretary having recommended me to send to the Society a sketch of the history of Chinese cartography, and a brief notice of the best materials for the compilation of a new map of that empire, I presume now to submit to the consideration of the Council a short account of the principal maps of China and its dependencies that have been compiled either by natives or Europeans, and to suggest what I think would be the best mode of obtaining an improved map of the Chinese empire.

The Chinese have had comparatively good maps of their own country for more than four centuries. The Kwang-yu-too, a large atlas of China, was compiled by Choo Sze Pun, who in 1311 and 1312 visited every part of his native land to render his work correct. This Atlas has been enlarged and improved by various editors, and several editions of it have been published—one of these, dated 1615, was presented to the Royal Asiatic Society by Sir George Thomas Staunton, together with a very large collection of valuable works relating to China, in the Chinese and other lan-